

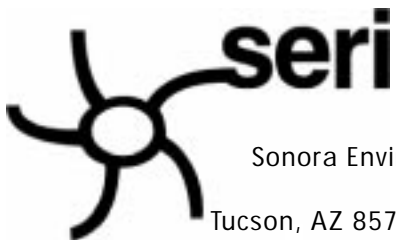
Who Can I Contact for More Information?

For more information contact:


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INDOOR AIR QUALITY

IS IT A PROBLEM AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL?



INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Many research studies have shown that the air we breathe indoors may be more polluted than the air we breathe outdoors. Many schools throughout the country have indoor air quality problems. Because children spend the majority of their day in school, the indoor air quality at their school is very important.

What Causes Bad Indoor Air Quality In Schools?

- Contaminants such as mold, bacteria, viruses and dust mites
- Dust
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies
- Pesticides
- Off-gassing of the building materials

What Can I Do to Protect My Child's Health While at School?

Ask the school officials at your child's school the following questions:

Does the school have an indoor air quality program in place? If so, how is the program handling the following?

- Is the school well ventilated? Is the temperature maintained at around 76°? Is the relative humidity kept below 50%?
- Are low-emission furnishings and equipment being used?
- How often are the heating, ventilation and air conditioning ducts cleaned and the filters changed?

- How often are the carpets cleaned?
- Has radon ever been tested for and if so when?
- Are mold inspections conducted, and if so, how often? Are there any policies in place to reduce mold growth (such as keeping the relative humidity below 50%)?
- How often are the classrooms cleaned and vacuumed, and is an effort being made to use less toxic forms of cleaning and disinfecting supplies?

Does the school employ integrated pest management practices? Integrated pest management practices include:

- keeping plants at least one foot away from buildings;
- promptly repairing cracks in the building and floors;
- keeping the premises, including student lockers, clean and having trash removed regularly;
- applying small amounts of fertilizer several times throughout the year, instead of one or two large applications per year;
- using pesticides only when necessary and spot treating where needed instead of regularly scheduled wide-area applications; and
- using less toxic forms of pesticides.

Poor indoor air quality can have both short-term and long-term health effects. The short-term health effects include fatigue, nausea, headaches, poor concentration and poor performance. One long-term health effect is asthma.

